

# Mulching and chipping



## **Yard debris can be used as a mulch for weed control and water retention.**

**What is mulch?** Mulch is organic material such as woodchips, leaves, grass clippings, and finished compost.

**How?** You can simply spread leaves or grass clippings beneath plantings. For woody materials up to 1 inch in diameter, rent or purchase a chipper/shredder. Tree services, if they are in your neighborhood, will often deliver wood chips free.

**Advantages & disadvantages.** All yard debris will work first as a mulch and then, as decomposition proceeds, as a soil enrichment. A disadvantage of mulching with woody yard wastes is that you may have to buy or rent power equipment or make arrangements with a tree service.

**Variations.** Use chipped material for informal garden paths.

## **Chipping options:**

**Door to door chipping services**  
Check your local phone directory under "Tree Service" for chipping and grinding services.



Recycled



Recyclable

The approximate cost for a 1 hour minimum chipping service is \$100.

**Rent a chipper** Check your local phone directory under “Rental” - Most large rental companies have chippers (for tree limbs and woody material) and chipper/mulchers (for woody and green material) available.

### **Neighborhood chipping events**

Clark County and the city of Vancouver sponsor neighborhood chipping events. Have your neighborhood president contact:

- Clark County Public Works  
(360) 397-6118
- City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods (360) 619-1142

## **For more information**

For more composting information, contact a Master Composter/Recycler at Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, (360) 882-4567. The Master Composter/Recycler program offers free composting workshops, composting how-to information, low-cost worm bin composting workshops, composting books to purchase, Master Composter/Recycler volunteer training, a reduced price compost bin, composting demonstration sites, teacher worm bin workshops, and speakers for neighborhood or community groups.



### **The Master Composter/Recycler program**

is a cooperative effort of Clark County, Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Yacolt, La Center and Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. For information, please call (360) 882-4567.



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.  
V (360) 397-2025; TTY (360) 397-2445; E-mail [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)